

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ADANA

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CINCUSNAVEUR

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USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS: GOT CONTINUES CALM STAND

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REF: FBIS KYRENIA 132053Z APRIL 74

SUMMARY: IN LATEST PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HIGH-LEVEL TURKISH OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO HOLD CALM VIEW OF RELATIONS WITH GREECE, BUT MENTION STATUS OF TURKS IN WESTERN THRACE AS PART OF DISPUTE. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES GOT POLICY ON CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE CONTINUED EFFORT BY MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET TO KEEP PUBLIC ATTENTION ON DISPUTE WITH GREECE, TENOR OF STATEMENTS BY LEADING TURKISH OFFICIALS REMAINS CALM, FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES, APPEARING BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY MIXED BUDGET COMMITTEE ON APRIL 12, REPORTEDLY SAID RELATIONS WITH GREECE WERE EASING AND PROVOCATIVE ARTICLES IN GREEK NEWSPAPERS HAD CEASED. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, GUNES SAID: "THESE CRISES HAVE TO CALM DOWN. WE HAVE A COMMON FATE. WAR IS NO GOOD FOR EITHER COUNTRY. WE BOTH KNOW THIS."

2. REGARDING THE AEGEAN, GUNES REPORTEDLY SAID TURKEY WOULD PROCEED WITH PLANS TO PROSPECT FOR OIL ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND WOULD REACT TO ANY INTERFERENCE AS IF THE OPERATIONS WERE IN TURKISH THRACE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HE ALSO SAID THE DISPUTE WITH GREECE INCLUDED THE QUESTION OF WESTERN THRACE, AS WELL AS THE AEGEAN.

3. AS REPORTED IN REF MSG, PRIMIN ECEVIT, IN AN INTEVIEW WITH THE GREEK DAILY AKROPOLIS, REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT THE DISPUTE OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS BASICALLY A TECHNICAL ISSUE AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP INTO A POLITICAL CRISIS. ACCORDING TO TURKISH PRESS, HOWEVER, ECEVIT ALSO REFERRED TO STATUS OF TURKISH MINORITY IN WESTERN THRACE AS HAVING IMPORTANT EFFECT ON TURKISH-GREECE RELATIONS.

4. IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MIXED BUDGET COMMITTEE, JUSTICE PARTY SENATOR KAMRAN INAN, A LEADING OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN POLICY, REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR "INVENTING" AN UNKNOWN "FEDERAL SYSTEM" CONCEPT FOR CYPRUS, JUST AS IT HAD DEVELOPED A MYSTERIOUS "PEOPLE'S SECTOR" CONCEPT IN DOMESTIC POLICY. (COMMENT: INAN'S CRITICISM IS UNUSUAL, SINCE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN TURKEY NORMALLY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT ON CYPRUS POLICY.)

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5. COMMENT: AT DINNER AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR GENERALS DAVISON AND SANCAR APRIL 12 FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SEC GEN EREZ TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD PERSONALLY CALLED EDITOR OF HURRIYET AND ASKED HIM TO TONE DOWN RECENT INCENDIARY TREATMENT OF TURKISH-GREEK ISSUE.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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